

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

Thursday, August 8, 1996

Mississippi Baptists help dedicate 70-year dream

By Jesse P. Phillips

BELLA VISTA, Paraguay — The dedication of the new Baptist Evangelical Church on April 18 was the fulfillment of a dream for many in this South American city of 8,000.

It had a special meaning for 89-year-old Encarnacion Sanchas Buda de Ojeda.

In 1926 two North American missionaries came to Bella Vista and rented a house to start an

evangelistic work. These men were later "run out of town," stoned, and chased over the Apa river into Bela Vista, Brazil.

The first evidence of the success of their ministry was the baptism of 12 believers on April 26, 1926. Ojeda was one of those original 12 who professed faith in Christ.

In 1936, the First Baptist Church in Bela Vista, Brazil, was

organized. Another missionary, Rev. Dain, went back across the Apa river to Paraguay to resume the work in 1938.

The 89-year-old Paraguayan Ojeda was one of nine persons, led by Pastor Artemio Rojas, who sought help from North American groups to construct a church building. At least three groups had promised help and even one ended their dream temporarily by selling the land for the proposed church building and leaving Bella Vista.

Meanwhile, God was at work in Oxford with a mission team which was praying for the revelation of a place in Brazil to construct a church, and provide other ministries with medical and evangelism teams.

Lanny Shackelford made contact with Charles Smothers, area director of Southern Baptist mission work in Paraguay and Brazil. Within a short time the details were worked out so that the 48-member Oxford mission team would leave for Bella Vista, Paraguay, on April 12.

The small group of nine in Bella Vista borrowed money to purchase land for the church and pour the concrete slab for the church building at a cost of approximately \$7,000.

When Ojeda visited the site, she commented about the North American mission team: "I know that you have come with the 'fire of the Lord within you....' You have been blessed and you come to bless."

This was not a new work for the local mission team organized by the Lafayette-Marshall Association. Since 1992, when 12 men

from First Church went to Aparecida, Brazil, five churches have been constructed and 1,050 professions of faith recorded.

Work began on Monday, April 15, at 6:30 a.m. on the 24' x 48' concrete block building. An 18-man construction team from the local mission group was joined by approximately 20 Paraguayan workers. Work was temporarily halted by seasonal rains.

"... You have come with the 'fire of the Lord within you....' You... come to bless."

— Encarnacion de Ojeda

With long hours and the construction team's positive attitude, the building was completed — painted inside and out, electrically wired, fans and lights installed — on April 18.

Meanwhile, at a government-owned open pavilion, a furniture construction crew of five men was at work. By noon that Thursday they had completed pews, a communion table, and a lectern/pulpit.

Simultaneously, a medical team of 11 was seeing several hundred Paraguayans who needed medical care. Some of these folks arrived as early as 4:30 a.m. Seven members of a team planned backyard Bible study and eight others worked as an evangelism team.

"This is the biggest thing that has ever happened in this community," commented Smothers as he witnessed the hundreds of people who came for the church dedication. It is estimated that 300 children accompanied their parents.

A brass band, composed of soldiers from the Historical Calvary Regiment in Bela Vista, Brazil, participated in the dedication ceremony by playing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

During the dedication a communion set, 25 Spanish hymnals, a set of 11 medical books, and a United States flag were presented to the new church. The flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol on March 8, 1996, at the request of Sen. Trent Lott (Miss.) in commemoration of this special event in Bella Vista.

Bill Collier arranged for the flag, which was accompanied by a framed certificate.

George Crowden, pastor of Calvary Church, was the principal speaker at the dedication of the church. Bill Vail, pastor of North Oxford Church and former missionary to Peru, interpreted the sermon in Spanish.

As a follow-up to the construction of the church and its dedication, Smothers and his wife conducted evening sessions on the use of the Bible. Special daily services were planned in the new church for the next two weeks.

Don Stanfill, director of missions for Lafayette and Marshall associations, estimated that approximately 450 decisions for Christ were registered during the week.

Phillips is publisher, *The Oxford (Miss.) Eagle*.



Encarnacion Sanchas Buda de Ojeda (center), 89-year-old Paraguayan, was one of 12 believers baptized on April 26, 1926 in Bella Vista, Brazil. She had the honor of cutting a red, white, and blue ribbon across the entrance to the Baptist Evangelical Church in Bella Vista, Paraguay, on April 18. Winfred Allen (left) of Holly Springs was one of the volunteer construction crew leaders which helped erect a building for the congregation. Artemio Rojas (second from left) is pastor of the new church. (Photo by Jesse P. Phillips)

Calling all men

A weekly 30-minute television show aimed at Christian men will premiere this fall on FamilyNet/ACTS, the broadcast and cable television services of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) in Fort Worth, Texas. Arthur Hixson of Nashville, a former RTVC employee, will produce "Man to Man" from his monthly one-hour subscription video magazine of the same name. "The TV version is just a matter of taking my vision for helping men a step further. God, obviously, is at work among Christian men. Using television and video to show how he is working will enhance the spread of the gospel," Hixson said. FamilyNET, the RTVC broadcast service, is viewed in 33 million homes through more than 100 affiliates around the country. ACTS, RTVC's cable television service, reaches more than 25 million homes on the Faith and Values Channel. Jerry Stamps, RTVC senior vice-president for administration, agreed that Christian men are on the move across the country, and Southern Baptists want to catch the wave with Hixson's new series.

Albania awakening

The eastern European country of Albania is in the midst of a great Christian awakening, say Southern Baptist missionaries struggling to keep up with baptism requests. As church membership booms, Albanians are talking about starting their own convention, according to Gale R. Hartley, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionary in Albania — once the most closed Soviet-model dictatorship on the European continent. FMB officials recently announced that several new missionaries will be sent to Albania as soon as possible to help handle the heavy workload created by the new Christians. "These are mostly young people from both Muslim and Orthodox background," Hartley said. Southern Baptist work in Albania, where former communist leaders once bragged that their country was the most atheistic in the world, is not without obstacles, however. Resistance from a sizeable Muslim community has been high, and American cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses are presenting a distorted theology, Hartley said. Southern Baptist work will continue to move forward, he added.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

The Brotherhood men's ministry organization of Leake Association donates items to support programs at Central Hills RA Camp near Kosciusko: .22 caliber rifles for the firing range, a 1964 Dodge pickup, and an 8-year-old mare.

20 years ago

An educational fund to assist pre-medical and nursing students at William Carey College is established by friends of the late Stova B. McIlwain, physician and member of First Church, Pascagoula, to honor his 56-year medical career.

50 years ago

Mississippi College President D.M. Nelson predicts servicemen returning from World War II duty and women leaving the work force will push the Baptist-affiliated school past the 800-student mark for the first time in the institution's history.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.

Of bunnies, bears, and frogs

The cartoons and animal characters depicted on the television of our youth always bring back good memories and make us smile. Those were the good old days.

Who could possibly forget Bugs Bunny, Smokey the Bear, and the Budweiser Frogs?

The Budweiser Frogs?

That's right — 20 years from now, your children will likely recall characters from alcohol advertisements as readily as they recall Bugs and Smokey.

"After a single year of advertising, the Budweiser Frogs have assumed a friendly place in our children's psyches between Bugs Bunny and Smokey the Bear," reports Laurie Lieber, who conducted an extensive children's survey for the Center on Alcohol Advertising.

If you don't believe alcohol companies are targeting your children, watch closer.

If beer-swilling frogs and other animated alcoholic creatures are your ideas of highbrow advertising, you really should grow up.

If such vacuous ads are indeed

not aimed at children (as the manufacturers claim), then American adults of average and higher intelligence should be roundly insulted at being taken for such idiots.

Seagram, a Canadian alcohol conglomerate, recently broke a 50-year voluntary ban on television advertising of hard liquor when a Corpus Christi, Texas, station agreed to broadcast the company's commercial.

The commercial features a number of handsome dogs, one of which is carrying a bag filled with a recognizable bottle of an expensive Seagram alcoholic product.

As "Pomp and Circumstance" plays in the background, the dog with the liquor is touted as the highest-ranking graduate in his class, which presumably entitles him to a rewarding bottle of this alcoholic product.

Here's the interesting part: The commercial ran on the television station in roughly the same time frame as high school graduations were occurring in the Corpus Christi area.

The problem has gotten so far out of hand that the Center for Science in the Public Interest has joined with the Children of Alcoholics Foundation in calling for legal action to halt alcohol advertising deceptively aimed at young people.

New York Congressman Joseph Kennedy has introduced legislation to regulate the broadcast advertising of alcoholic products and require all such ads to bear health and safety messages.

Lawsuits and legislation are helpful, but the buck stops at a much deeper level.

Dad and Mom, do your children see you consuming the very same products the frogs and dogs are advertising? What message are you transmitting to your children, and to other young people who look up to you?

Sure, you can do anything that's legal, and alcohol is legal. You "know when to say when," right? What possible harm could you be doing?

Ponder that last question, and remember the predators who are closing in on your children.

"YOU CAN MAKE BETTER TIME IF YOU IMAGINE SOMEONE WAITING AT THE END GIVING YOU A WELL DONE!"



Guest opinion...

New Age interest in angels yields witness opportunities

By Dwayne Hastings

NASHVILLE (BP) — We have an obsession with angels.

These divine supernatural beings adorn

coffee mugs, T-shirts, note cards, checkbooks, license plates, postage stamps, and even soap dispensers.

Speaker wants revision of Baptist Faith and Message

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — A speaker at the Southern Baptist Founders Conference called for a revision of the Baptist Faith and Message article on salvation, while several leaders of the conference have questioned the call.

Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Church, Washington, D.C., urged revision of the Southern Baptist Convention statement of faith at the 14th annual meeting of the Founders Conference, July 23-26 on the campus of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. The conference is attended by Southern Baptists who hold to the "doctrines of grace," known most widely by the title, "Calvinism."

The doctrines of grace constitute the five points of Calvinism which gained its name from 16th century Protestant reformer John Calvin and were codified in 1619 at the Dutch Reformed Church's Synod of Dort.

Speaking on the topic of "Irresistible Grace," one of the five points of Calvinism, Dever asserted the 1963 version of the Baptist Faith and Message leans more toward the Roman Catholic position of salvation by works than the traditional Protestant position of salvation as a gift of grace from God.

"There has been a lamentable decline in Baptist understanding that faith is a gift and it is crucial for our understanding of the gospel," Dever declared, citing the 1963 Baptist statement as the prime example. In an interview following his speech, Dever stressed he could sign the 1963 confession "happily."

While Dever's call for revision of the Baptist Faith and Message was met by hearty "Amen!" from the audience at the Founders Conference, it was met with a mixed review among the movement's leaders.

Although he agreed the statement could be strengthened, Tom Ascol, coordinator of the Founders Conference, said in an interview, "I see no significant purpose that could be served" by amending the confession at this time.

Angels appear to be the religious, and secular, symbol of choice in the late 20th century. Bookstores, secular and Christian alike, abound with newly published books on angels; yet many falsely portray these mysterious beings as some sort of spiritual mentor that will provide a pathway to a source of higher energy.

Perhaps spurred on by a New Age fascination with spirituality and angelology, even those within the evangelical community are, in seeking to satisfy their craving with anything having to do with angels, drawing close to flirting with worship of the created instead of the Creator.

Historically, Christian theology has offered little more than "embarrassed silence" on the subject of angels, suggests Duane Garrett, Hebrew and Old Testament professor at the Canadian Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Theology books break this silence only long enough to say a few words about angels as a kind of aside and then quickly abandon them to languish in isolation," Garrett writes in his book, *Angels and the New Spirituality*. He further notes, "... the message from the church is a babble of confusion" about angels.

It's important to separate fact from fiction in this spiritual fad, pulling from the speculation and fantasy that which is scripturally based. People know just enough about angels to be dangerous, says David Lanier, New Testament professor at

Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. "It's a tantalizing subject, but we have to be very careful."

The most complete scriptural account on angels, found in Hebrews 1:5-2:9, makes clear Christ is higher than the angels. They are servants; he is the Son. Yet society's overblown infatuation in decorating with these man-made replicas of God's messengers suggests a lack of interest, or ignorance at best, in acknowledging the divine hierarchy.

"Angels are subordinate servants under God and unworthy of worship, while Christ is sovereign Lord worthy of all worship," notes Danny Akin, vice president of academic administration at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Garrett notes while angels are portrayed as giving instructions from on high to biblical prophets, they were only "joyful heralds or obedient servants" for Christ.

"The folly of the current craze over angels could not be more pronounced," Garrett writes. "People prefer lesser spirits to the creator of all spirits. They seek revelation from angels rather than learning from the final revelation in the Son. If we reject God, to which one of the angels shall we turn for help?"

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Mississippi Baptists go for "More than Gold" — pages 6 & 7



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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Published Since 1877

Arson ruled in burning of Yazoo City church

By Carl M. White

An intentionally set fire partially destroyed the educational building of Beacon Church, Yazoo City, in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, according to Dennis Weaver, investigating agent with Federal Bureau of Investigation in Jackson.

The damaged building is one of two double-wide mobile chapel trailers at the church site owned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Beacon Church is the sixth arson fire at a predominantly African-American church in Mississippi, but the first involving a congregation directly related to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Beacon Church pastor Charles Thomas does not believe the burning is race related, but rather the misdirected activities of neighborhood youths.

Thomas' wife Daisy, an emergency room physician, reported three distinct sets of small footprints were found in cleaning material spread on the floor.

"I hope when they find them they will give us a chance to witness to them. Just sending them to jail won't help," she said.

Don Wilson, director of the MBCB Mission Extension and Associational Administration Department, said Beacon Church is a mission of First Church, Yazoo City.

David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, said, "I am saddened by the fire. I pray for those who started the fire, and for the church to have a greater witness and stronger ministry as a result of the recovery process."

"We will not let this incident deter us in our effort to help Beacon Church have a permanent place in this community."

Churches in Yazoo and Warren Associations have collected funds since May of this year to build a permanent brick structure on the Beacon property. Volunteers will construct the facility.

About \$17,000 of the \$75,000 needed to begin construction has been raised, according to Raddin.

Beacon Church was started four years ago in response to the tragic murder of a young boy in Yazoo City.

"Community meetings raised the awareness of the spiritual needs of this community. I was asked to start a Bible study which grew into a church," Charles Thomas said.

Beacon Church has approximately 20

members and also runs a four-year-old kindergarten through grade 12 Christian school.

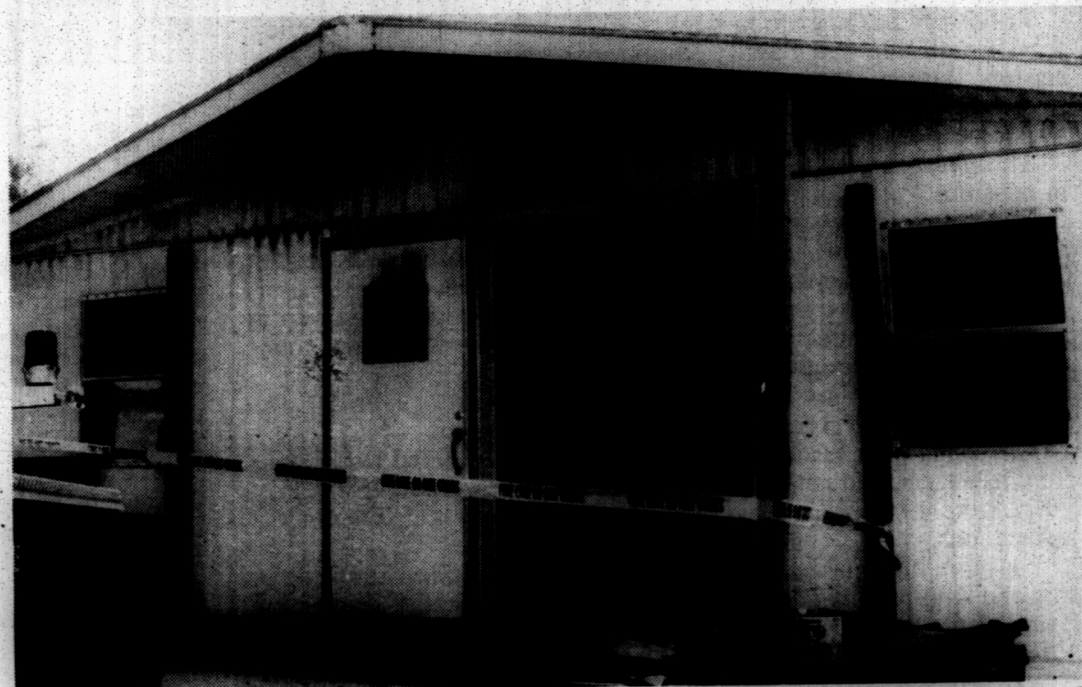
The fire follows a break-in and vandalism incident on the night of Aug. 2. A neighbor's call on the morning of Aug. 3 alerted Thomas and his wife, and they inspected the building.

The Aug. 4 fire was reported by a passerby at about 3:00 a.m. Quick response by firefighters limited the damage, but no notification was made to Thomas or MBCB.

When the pastor and congregation arrived for Sunday morning services, they found the partially-gutted building.

"We had not been notified about the fire, but we still had services. All things work together for good; God has a purpose even for this," he said.

Eugene Dobbs, MBCB executive assistant, said, "We deeply regret what has happened but are confident that the good work that was begun at Beacon Church will continue."



Police tape cordons off the educational building at Beacon Church, Yazoo City, on Aug. 5. The church property was heavily damaged by arsonists in the early morning hours of Aug. 4. No damage estimate was available at publication time, but supporters said long-standing plans will proceed to build a permanent structure on the church property. (Photo by Carl M. White)



Church Rebuilding Fund

\$32,906.77

For more information:
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

State Cooperative Program gifts up almost 7%

Gifts through the Cooperative Program by Mississippi Baptists totaled \$2,260,137 in July, according to Bill Cassey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which administers the fund.

The July amount, added to that given January through June, makes the 1996 total so far \$914,997, or 6.79% more than that given for the same period of 1995.

1996 giving for seven months is \$814,625, or 6% ahead of the previous year's \$772,574. Pro rata figures are derived by taking the total 1995 total of \$23,280,984; dividing by 12 months, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

Cooperative Program gifts helped fund the recent Mississippi Baptist Convention Night at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson; the Growing Church in the South conferences at Gulfshore Assembly; and the upcoming Family Festival and children's choir Aug. 17 at Park Place Church in Jackson.

SB...ly...

NASHVILLE... gifts for the... year's total... chief executive...

The total... decrease...

The SBC's... the same period... an increase of...

Designated... \$4,699,223... year to date... year of \$127,3...

For the SBC... or \$391,090... total, the...



Mississippians at NFBM

Mississippians who took part in the recent Triennial Meeting of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions (NFBM), pictured from left, first row, are Annette C. and W.C. Taylor of Grenada, Bill Morgan and William Morgan of Bruce; second row, Bill and Dot Rieves of Tupelo, and Hal and Dot Buchanan of Tupelo. NFBM promotes direct missions involvement through national fellowships using members' professional and vocational skills.

MBCB departments combine for Natchez mission endeavor

Following a tremendous week with World Changers in Natchez, the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFMD), Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) combined for a medical and TeamKID mission endeavor.

The purpose was to involve first-graders-through-senior-adults in missions.

The mission areas were Natchez Mall, the Convention Center (Arts and Craft Show), two nursing homes, Calvary Church, Washington Church, and low income houses around their churches.

The medical units were composed of six registered nurses from across Mississippi and two physicians who gave check-ups and counseling. Helpful materials were available.

The TeamKID mission (children's materials from DFMD) was going on while two groups went to low-income houses.

The teams were made up of one doctor, one registered nurse, children, teenagers, and adults. They handed out over 7,000 hygiene kits. There were 19 families from nine churches representing six Baptist associations.

For more information on TeamKid, contact Glen Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Choirs' "Shining Stars" leader training sites set

The Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will sponsor three area preschool/children's choir leadership training events in a variety of locations in August.

Under the theme, "The Search for Shining Stars," the training events are held for the benefit of leaders and workers with preschool and children's choirs.

Dates and locations for the events are: Aug. 17, Park Place Church, Brandon; Aug. 24, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and First Church, Hattiesburg. Each session runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Leaders for the Brandon session will be: Judy Turner,

preschool; Pam Meadows, younger children; Keith Stevens, older children; and Vicki Smith, grades 1-6.

Tupelo leaders will be: Barry Tweedy, preschool; Martha Robinson, younger children; Tommy Gillon, older children; and Rusty Miller, grades 1-6.

Hattiesburg leaders will be Rhonda Armstrong, preschool; Katrina Marler, younger children; Bill Barnes, older children; and Gloria Speed, grades 1-6.

A registration fee of \$5 per person is payable at the door. For more information, contact the Church Music Department at (601) 968-3800; or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.

Christian Coalition faces suit over political activity charges

WASHINGTON (BP) — In a suit that threatens to have a chilling effect on political activity by issue-advocacy groups, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has accused the Christian Coalition of violating federal election laws by illegally spending nearly \$1 million to bolster the failed re-election bid of President George Bush in 1992.

In a civil suit filed July 30, the FEC sued the group, considered to be the nation's largest political group of religious conservatives, for contributing in-kind more than \$1.4 million, citing in particular the coalition's disbursement of voter guides.

Federal election laws prohibit corporations from contributing money or services to any candidate or political group.

FEC documents allege the Christian Coalition illegally coordinated its endeavors with the campaigns of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), House Majority Leader Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), Reps. Bob Inglis (R-S.C.), and John David Hayworth (R-Ariz.), as well as Oliver North in his bid for U.S. Senate in Virginia — spending money on behalf of the candidates without reporting the expenditures as contributions.

The complaint also claims the group aided the efforts of the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), a committee which seeks the election of Republicans to the U.S. Senate.

The lawsuit has broader implications than just the operation of the Christian Coalition, suggested a *Washington Post* report, noting many organizations — unions, environmentalists, and pro-life and pro-choice groups — have become more involved in the political realm while claiming their activity is only issue-oriented.

"We're going to start seeing a lot more of these kinds of cases," speculated Lisa Rosenberg of the Center for Responsive Politics, according to *USA Today*.

The action was triggered by a complaint made in 1992 by Sue Wrenn, chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia, calling the Christian Coalition "nothing more or less an arm of the Republican Party; an arm that has been used to bend and break the law."

The Democratic National Committee also complained the coalition was engaging in "express advocacy" of GOP candidates.

"Christian Coalition has abided

by both the letter and the spirit of the law," said Ralph Reed, Christian Coalition executive director. "We are absolutely and totally confident that we will be fully vindicated and the courts will affirm that people of faith have every right to be involved as citizens and voters."

Christian Coalition officials have insisted since the group's founding in 1989 their efforts were designed only to "encourage active citizenship among people professing the Christian faith."

The coalition said their voter education activity was far less substantial than other organizations, citing the AFL-CIO, Chamber of Commerce, and the National Education Association.

The suit was applauded by groups who have a history of scrapping with the 1.6-million-member group.

"The political sins of Pat Robertson and Ralph Reed are finally catching up with them," responded Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "The Christian Coalition from day one has been a hard-ball political operation cloaked in religiosity."

Seminaries finalize preparations for series of one-day convocations

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — The seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) are ready partners with SBC President Tom Elliff in a series of one-day convocations emphasizing the crucified life and prayer for spiritual awakening from Aug. 29 through Sept. 12.

The initial convocation, Aug. 29, will be at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

From there, the convocations will be Sept. 3 at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas;

— Sept. 4, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.;

— Sept. 5, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.;

— Sept. 10, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.;

— Sept. 11, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; and

— Sept. 12, New Orleans Seminary.

Each convocation will begin at 10 a.m.

Elliff, in a July 15 mailing to 40,000 Southern Baptist pastors and other leaders, issued an "urgent invitation" to the convocations. The 20th century, he noted, "is rapidly drawing to a close. Tragically, this could be the first century in our nation's history to pass without a great, sweeping move of God. Will that be the case? Many of us believe the Lord is saying 'turn to me!' He is calling us to revival; calling us to the cross; calling us to the crucified life."

The seminaries are opening their campuses to all concerned

pastors and church leaders for a day "when all energies and interests will be focused on revival," Elliff wrote. He urged Southern Baptists to travel to the nearest campus "on the day most suited to your schedule." Elected SBC president at the SBC's annual meeting in New Orleans, Elliff is pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, in suburban Oklahoma City.

The one-day convocations will not boast a list of speakers, Elliff stated, explaining, "We will be gathered to meet with God, not to be drawn to some noted personalities announced in advance."

Prayer — for Southern Baptists to turn to the crucified life with Jesus and for spiritual awakening — will be emphasized, not just preaching or singing, Elliff said.

NOBTS bivo music class now open for enrollment

Registration is open for the fifth of eight courses offered around the state by New Orleans Seminary to train bivocational church-music directors and church educational directors.

The course, "Hymnology," will meet once a week for two hours, for eight consecutive weeks at four locations:

— Broadmoor Church, Jackson, beginning Monday, Aug. 19, 7-9 p.m. Teacher: Jimmy McCaleb.

— Antioch Church, Columbus, beginning Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7-9 p.m. Teacher: Ed Nix.

— First Church, Purvis, beginning Monday, Aug. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: James Hayes.

— Liberty Church, Liberty, beginning Monday, Aug. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Course: Reading Music: Harmony/Melody). Teacher: Buddy McElroy.

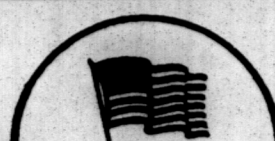
This is part of a two-year cycle of eight courses which earns the

student a Church Music certificate from New Orleans Seminary. Each course needs no prerequisite. The cost of each course is \$75. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.

"Project 25" is a cooperative effort of the New Orleans Seminary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the Baptist Sunday School Board. The first 25 bivocational music directors to enroll will receive a one-time amount of \$100 to cover registration fees for the first course. (This excludes those already in the program.) This training is limited to one musician per church.

These classes could be offered at select locations in the state other than the four above, where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.



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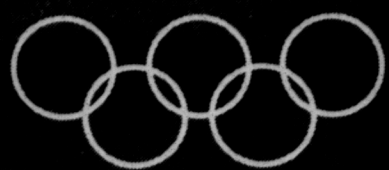
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Mississippi Baptists play k

Mississippi volunteers use '96 Olympic Games to spread gospel to Americans, internationals

By William H. Perkins Jr.

From Athens to Columbus to the Ocoee River, Mississippi Baptists from Meadville to Jackson to Wiggins answered the call to share their faith with the world at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

"Evangelism at the Olympics was an opportunity to reach people from many different parts of the world — and the United States — with the gospel in a short period of time. I was impressed with that," said Bill Kent, pastor of Providence Church, Meadville.

Kent and his wife Cindy were among a cadre of Mississippi Baptists working on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, where Olympic competition in rhythmic gymnastics, volleyball, and soccer was held.

Kent said in addition to talking with people from 12 countries and 18 American states, he and Cindy also witnessed to university students and security guards who stopped by their stations at the Baptist Student Union on campus and at "The Arches," the busy entrance to the 30,000-student state university.

Cindy Kent said the Olympic evangelism outreach, coordinated through a special Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) enti-

ty named Atlanta International Ministries (AIM), was the best evangelistic effort Southern Baptists have ever undertaken.

"AIM was well-planned. The tracts, hospitality bags, and other materials went together well.

"It was obvious a lot of thought and prayer went into this; people were being reached for Christ," she said.

Bill Kent echoed his wife's observations.

"Our church took up a love

Forest Service employee.

Columbus was the venue for Olympic softball competition.

She said although she was initially anxious about her first attempt at street evangelism, "I was really amazed at the response. People want to hear the message of the gospel."

Evans, who serves as WMU director for Gulf Coast Association, said many vendors visited with them when business was slow, and quite a few people returned with friends asking for a retelling of the plan of salvation.

Evans said she and her husband evaluated their Olympic experience and reached a tentative decision.

"We've been on lots of mission trips since retirement, but after this trip, Richard said, 'Let's go to Sydney!'" referring to the site of the next Olympic Games in Australia in the year 2000.

Jim Doremus, minister of singles at First Church, Jackson, said the group he drove to Georgia had a number of memorable experiences.

"Measurable results may be hard to determine, but I do know that none of the materials we handed out were thrown on the ground. There was a lot of openness; it was a good opportunity for people at all evangelism 'comfort levels' to share the gospel," he said.

Members of his team were visibly moved when they served meals to homeless families at Oconee Street Methodist Church in Athens.

"They were surprised at the number of children among the homeless. Three people prayed to receive Christ that day," he said.

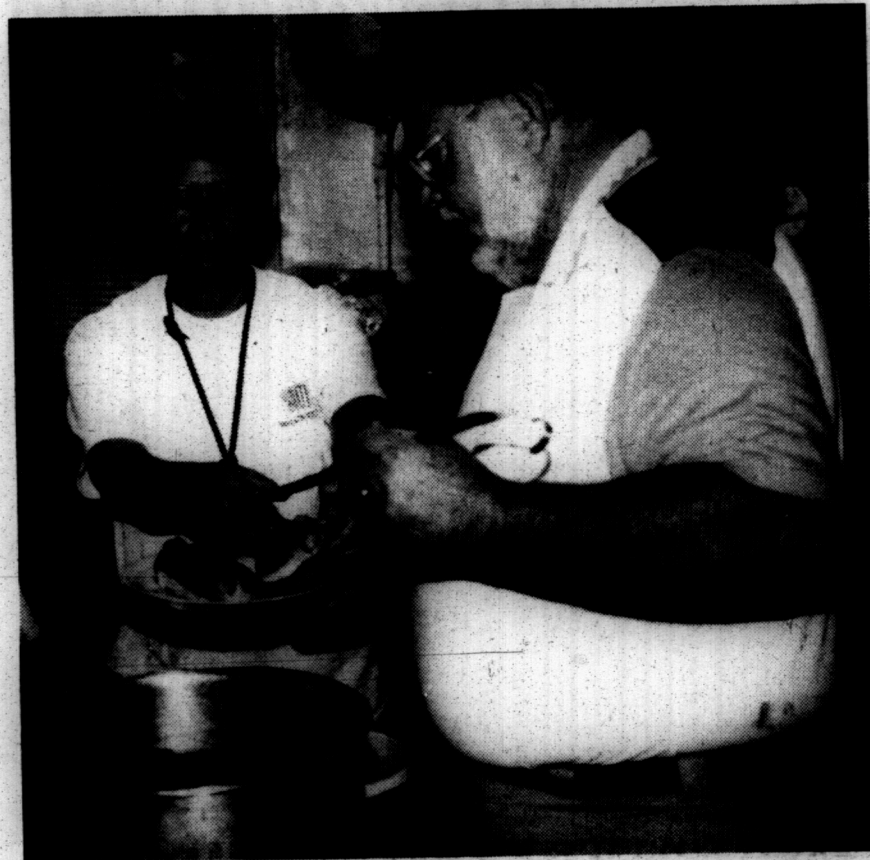
Jan Cossitt, coordinator of Mississippi Baptist Olympic activities and general consultant in the Mississippi WMU Department, said about 800 Mississippi Baptist volunteers from 43 churches worked at the Olympic Games sites.

In addition, local WMU groups oversaw the assembly of almost 24,000 hospitality bags to be distributed by the volunteers.

"This is a prime example of why I'm so proud to be a Mississippi Baptist. Mississippi is the best state in the whole Southern Baptist Convention," she said.

Cossitt came away from her year-long coordination effort with a renewed urgency to share the Good News.

"Our Olympic experience was an important reminder of just how open people are to the gospel of Jesus Christ," she said.



Help for the homeless

Shirley Goss (left) member of Union Church, Caesar, and Joe Gill, member of Colbert United Methodist Church in Colbert, Ga., serve up hot meals to the homeless at Oconee Street Methodist Church in Athens, Ga. Goss was one of several hundred Mississippi volunteers who worked during the 1996 Olympic Games at a variety of jobs to help spread the gospel at Olympic venues. Gill is a regular volunteer in the church's daily meal

ministry to the homeless. The Mississippi volunteers used the University of Georgia's Baptist Student Union as their headquarters. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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Olympic sidewalk ministry

Barbara Jean Hall (standing, left) and Sheree Tynes (standing, center), members of First Church, Jackson, talk with an unidentified couple on their way to the Olympic rhythmic gymnastics competition in the coliseum of the University of Georgia at Athens. Hall and Tynes served as volunteers, handing out evangelism tracts and witnessing to the large numbers of spectators for Olympic events in the Athens area. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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key role in Olympic evangelism



Cold drink on a hot day

While Baptists were prohibited by official regulation from ministering overtly at Olympic venues, many found ways to share their faith and stay within established guidelines. Biloxi Baptists who signed on with the soft drink ven-

dor at the canoe/kayak slalom site on the Ocoee River in Tennessee included (from left) Jacy Bordeaux; Russell Moore, youth pastor at Bay Vista Church, Biloxi; Maria Moore, and Nick Chichester. (Photo by Connie Davis)

**Total Mississippi Olympic workers:
800 volunteers from 43 churches**

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Ocoee River venue flooded with Mississippi Baptists

By Connie Davis

OCOEE, Tenn. — Hundreds of youths from Mississippi gathered this summer in the east Tennessee mountains near the Tennessee Olympic venue to minister to athletes, tourists, and residents.

About 200 youths were working the week prior to the canoe/kayak slalom events on June 27-28.

The youths were based at Camp Agape in Polk Association at Benton. They were leading various ministries directed by the association's Andy Jordan, who was coordinating efforts of five area association with help from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta.

A total of 31 Baptist youths and summer missionaries sold concessions at the Tennessee venue during the slalom trial runs July 26. The work allowed them to experience the Olympics and to be personal witnesses.

Those positions would have been filled by Baptist youth during upcoming Olympic events on July 27-28, but Jordan changed plans after the July 27 early morning pipe bombing at Centennial Park in downtown Atlanta.

"We're here to do a work, but you don't put somebody in harm's way if you can help it," said Jordan.

Short-term ministry efforts should be safe training experiences for mission service, he explained, so volunteers were redirected to other ministry sites.

Because of restrictions that did not allow Baptists to minister overtly in the venue, volunteers found other ways to share their faith during the Olympics.

Youths distributed hospitality bags at the parking area of the Olympic venue. The bags, pre-

pared by Woman's Missionary Union members, contained items such as sunscreen, granola bars, and a pocket guide on the Olympics and Christianity published by HMB.

The volunteers worked from shelters which served as hospitality/information centers and shielded them from the heat of the sun. Other centers operated from motel parking lots.

To target other tourists — some from other countries — youths distributed hospitality bags near canoeing/kayak centers on the Ocoee River. Others led worship services in camping areas.

Creative arts groups performed near one motel's swimming pool and in shopping malls to reach tourists. Volunteers led activities at street festival in nearby Cleveland, Tenn.

Youths also worked at boys' and girls' clubs, day care centers, churches, and motels.

Adria Wilkins of Holly Springs worked at the Olympic venue and had a rewarding experience during a break from her assignment.

A young boy wanted to trade pins, a popular activity during the Olympics. Wilkins was wearing her "More than gold" pin supplied by HMB to supplement the pocket guides and serve as an opening to present the plan of salvation.

Wilkins found that despite the distractions of being in the main thoroughfare as 14,000 people passed by, the boy's father was willing to wait as she explained the pin.

It was difficult to concentrate, Wilkins explained, but she was encouraged by the intentness of the child and his honesty in answering questions.

"I was shaking. There were tons of people walking by and looking at us and wondering what was going on. That was why I was nervous," she said.

Although the boy did not make a decision during her witness, he told Wilkins he would read the pocket guide and consider making a decision.

His father genuinely thanked her and told her he was a Christian, she said.

"I prayed all afternoon that they would read (the pocket guide) and he would pray," she said.



Laurie Steele of Batesville waves at motorists to attract their attention as they approach a Baptist hospitality area (background) at the entrance to the parking area for the Ocoee River Olympic venue. Steele was among the 200 Mississippi young people who volunteered to work this summer at the competition site. (Photo by Connie Davis)

Wilkins' husband Erik witnessed to a retired college president as they were seated together in the stands during trial runs. The man was Catholic but interested in the witness, Erik said.

Deron Cobb, minister to students at First Church, Olive Branch, led a team of 15 youths.

They saw 20 professions of faith during their week at the Olympic venue.

Jordan arranged for Cobb's group to work at a campground near the Ocoee River, where they led a service that resulted in four professions of faith.

Cobb said a 10-year-old child who made a profession of faith brought her cousin, who also made the decision for Christ.

At a kayaking site, the Olive Branch youths distributed hospitality bags and "power bands," beaded bracelets representative of the plan of salvation.

They even visited with tourists from Scotland and Belgium despite the language barrier, Cobb said.

The Mississippians who worked in the boys' and girls' clubs presented the spiritual meaning of the power bands to about 50 children, and 13 made professions of faith, Cobb reported.

"It's been awesome. We're excited that we got to be in on what God is doing," he said.

Davis writes for *The Baptist and Reflector*, newsjournal of Tennessee Baptists.

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Revival Dates

Spring Hill (Marshall): Aug. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Tutor, Pontotoc, evangelist; Danny Butler, Olive Branch, music; Paul Middleton, pastor.

Corinth, Heidelberg: Aug. 11-16; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jerry East, Calera, Ala., evangelist; Mark Giles, Laurel, music; Edd Holloman, pastor.

Pleasant Hill (Leake): Aug. 11-14; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Abel, evangelist; Pam Bell, music; Paul G. Cain, pastor.

Fellowship, Ellisville: Aug. 11-16; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. worship, dinner on the grounds, and 1 p.m. singing; revival, Mon.-Fri., services, 7:30 p.m.; Tommy Anderson, Lorena Church, Forest, evangelist; Robert Bolling, Fellowship Church, music.

Yockanookany, Kosciusko: Aug. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, Lucedale, evangelist; Bobby Waggoner, Kosciusko, music; James G. Pope, pastor.

Oak Grove, Lake: Aug. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; LaVerne Summerlin, First Church, Lake, evangelist; Ted Jones, Lake, music; Victor R. Vaughn Sr., pastor.

Mt. Zion, Osyka: Aug. 11-16; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Randall Jackson, Tangipahoa (Amite), evangelist, and James Bickham, Tangipahoa (Amite), music; Earl Warren, pastor.

Mt. Carmel, Forest: Aug. 11-

16; Sunday, dinner following morning service and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy Ingram, Beulah Church, Magee, evangelist; Charley Cook, pastor.

Hebron (Montgomery): Aug. 11-16; Sunday, homecoming, Billy Little, pastor, speaker, following lunch the Revelation Quartet from Jackson will be in concert; revival will start Sunday night at 7:30 p.m.; Cecil A. Fayard Jr., Central Church, Grenada, evangelist; Rudolph Hodges and Mevlyn Hunt, music.

Pilgrim's Rest (Attala): Aug. 11-14; Sunday, Gideon Appreciation Day at 11 a.m., covered dish meal, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry W. Smith, Bruce, evangelist; Alton Milner, Tommy Armstrong, and Linda Thompson, Pilgrim's Rest Church members, music; Wed., Jerry and Spin Smith, mini-concert; Walter Hines, pastor.

Concord, Ackerman: Aug. 12-16; services, 7 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, director of missions, Winston Association; Roger Griffith, pastor.

Oral, Sumrall: Aug. 18-22; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Rayford Moore, speaker; revival services, Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., Jerry Rawls, evangelist; Wed. and Thurs., Dale Saucier, evangelist; Kevin Mardis, music; Thomas McCormick, pastor.

Union, Puckett: Aug. 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, evangelist; Jasper Butler, music; Brent Bozeman, pastor.

Montrose (Jasper): Aug. 11-

16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James E. Pugh Jr., Walnut Hill, Fla., evangelist; Bill Hutto, pastor.

Hardy, Grenada: Aug. 8-11; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, regular worship service followed by noon meal, no night services; Mike Smithey, Marks, evangelist; Jimmy Hood, Grenada, music; J. Courtney Selvy, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Rankin): Aug. 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. service, noon meal, 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Lannie Wilbourne, Brandon, evangelist; Richard Sparks, music; Tommy Bufkin, pastor.

Oak Grove, Fenn Road (Mississippi): Aug. 11-16; Sunday, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship service, noon dinner on the grounds, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Clint Pressley, evangelist; David and Carolyn Fenn, music; Cletus Moak, pastor.

County Line (Rankin): Aug. 11-14; Sunday, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Darren Wigington, Prentiss, evangelist; Brian Herring, music; T.W. Henderson, pastor.

Concord, Ackerman: Aug. 11; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; afternoon singing; Gerald Sargent, guest speaker; Roger Griffith, pastor.

Improve (Marion): Aug. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m. service; James Hitt, Columbia, guest speaker; Ron Burch, pastor.

D'Lo (Simpson): Aug. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; Robert Sones, speaker, pastor.

New Prospect, Brookhaven: Aug. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon singing; Kenneth Kirk, guest speaker; Willie Welch, pastor.

Rolling Creek, Quitman: Aug. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; Arlis Nichols, Enterprise, guest speaker; Tony Meinhardt, pastor.

Harmony (Lincoln): Aug. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1 p.m. service; Marion Ball, former pastor, Oak Grove, Ala., guest speaker; Wilson Winstead, pastor.

First, Yazoo City: Aug. 18; 11 a.m. service; noon meal; 1:30 p.m., musical program; Bill Stanford, Twin Lakes Church,

Mississippians earn degrees from NOBTS

Thirteen graduates with Mississippi connections were awarded degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises on July 26.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were Stephen R. Pritchett, Columbus; Robin Wade Risher, Forest, interim pastor of Hillsboro Church, Hillsboro; Steven Smith, Saltillo; Bobby Harold Rayburn, Canton; Cindy Stafford Simmons, Jackson; D. Eric Reed, son of Donald E. Reed, Meridian; and Timothy L. Martin, pastor of First Church, Nicholson.

Receiving the master of arts in

Christian Education were John Scott Walters, Laurel; and Walter Nelson (Chip) Stevens, Crystal Springs, minister of youth at First Church, Crystal Springs.

Charlie Frank Barnes, Saltillo, pastor of Jerusalem Church, Nettleton, received the bachelor of arts degree.

Dwayne H. Dunaway, Summit, pastor of O'Zion Church, Meadville, received the associate in Christian studies degree.

Cletus Moak, Smithdale, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Smithdale, received the associate of pastoral ministries degree.

Staff Changes

Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, has called **Tony Inmon** as minister of youth. A student at Blue Mountain College, he was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by First Church, Oxford. He is currently active in the BSU Drama Team and Ministerial Alliance.

Inmon

Michael Weeks is pastor.

Goss Church, Columbia, has called **David Laird** as pastor, effective July 21. A native of McComb, he received his education at Ouachita University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Second Church, Indianola.

Salem Church, Tylertown, has called **Jim Pender** of Louin as pastor, effective Aug. 11. His previous place of service was Antioch Church, Jasper Association.

Homecomings

Jackson, guest speaker; David Raddin, pastor.

New Providence, Carthage: Sept. 15; approximately 120 years old; activities include registration at 9 a.m., devotional, pot luck lunch, church history, hymns, special music, and awards; Smith Sanders, pastor.

Fairhaven, Olive Branch: Sept. 15; morning and afternoon services and dinner on the grounds; Jack Price, pastor.

Carey Chapel (Marshall): Oct. 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m., musical program with Carey Chapel Men and Bumpas Family, Holly Springs; Jack Gregory, pastor.

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Little Bahala, Wesson: Aug. 11; worship service, 10:50 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night service; Charles Gentry, Clinton, guest speaker; Thomas and Willa Moak, Brookhaven, music; revival Aug. 12-16; 7 nightly with Charles Gentry and the Moaks; Wayne Gray, pastor.

Phalti, Pachuta: Aug. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; 7 p.m. worship service; revival, Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gus Morrill, Newton, evangelist; Howard Bennett, pastor.

BSSB's "One Spirit" aids women ministry leaders

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — "One Spirit," a ministry to women serving in ministry leadership positions, was unveiled during National Conference for Church Leadership at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center as a part of LeaderCare, the Baptist Sunday School Board's (BSSB) strategy of personal development for pastors and staff.

Linda Miniard, BSSB consultant in the pastor-staff leadership department's personal development section, led the introductory conference for women July 14 to launch the "touch point" at the BSSB for more than 22,000 women in ministry leadership positions in churches, associations, state conventions, and national agencies.

Miniard led conference participants in a biblical study of women in ministry leadership roles, including Deborah, Abigail, Esther, Mary Magdalene,

Joanna, Susanna, Mary and Martha, Dorcas, and Priscilla. She said their roles demonstrate servanthood, systematic obedience to God, and lives with purpose.

"These women were not accidentally there," Miniard said. "They are examples for us to follow."

"You don't have to be radical, angry, or militant in order to accomplish all God intended you to be," she added.

"If your purpose is platform recognition and honor, you need to rethink your purpose. No matter who you are and what you do in life, you do it for God's honor."

National Conferences for Church Leadership, July 12-15 and July 15-19, focused training on leadership, ministry, and worship, and were sponsored by the BSSB's church leadership services division.

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Jacque Edwards Seal, wife of Otis Seal of Meridian, died July 27 at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian. She was 78. The Madisonville, La., native was a graduate of William Carey College and the University of Southern Mississippi. She was a member of Calvary Church, Meridian, where her husband served as pastor 31 years before retiring. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Ann Schroeder of Meridian; a son, A. Otis of Meridian; sister Anna Williams of Collins; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Martin Bluff Church, Gauti-

er, held a reception on June 30 for **Paul Kirke** in honor of his 80th birthday and 50 years in the ministry. Kirke pastored both Pine Hill Church, West Enterprise, and Hickory Grove, Lauderdale County, at the same time while attending Clarke College and Mississippi College. He is also a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. Other churches he served as pastor were First, Gautier; Port Gibson, Port Gibson; First, Poplarville; Eastlawn and Jackson Avenue, Pascagoula; and Pine Lake, Van-cleave. He served as associate pastor at First Church, Pascagoula, and Parkway Church. Charles Brady is pastor of Martin Bluff Church.



Victor R. Vaughn Sr. and his wife Joyce were honored on his 23rd anniversary as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Scott County. They received a basket of flowers with a monetary gift.



Six students of Wade Church, Jackson Association, have made commitments to enter the ministry. Pictured from left, are Brent Stork, Carla Tanner, Russell Pedersen, Melissa Smith, Philip Price, minister of youth and music, and Brooks Delk. Not pictured is Jessica Pedersen. Bill Barton is pastor.

Just for the Record

Supreme Court Justice Edwin Lloyd Pittman, a member of the board of trustees at William Carey College, will be the featured speaker at the William Carey College summer graduation on Saturday, Aug. 10, at 10 a.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. Approximately 250 candidates will receive bachelor's and master's degrees at the ceremony.

Pittman

Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sept. 14-15. The church is seeking to contact former members and staff. To be included in the celebration, contact the church at 3705 Old Brandon Road, Pearl, MS 39208; telephone (601) 939-2975. Ted Dukes is pastor.

Laurel Hill Church, Philadelphia, will hold a dedication service for its new fellowship hall on Aug. 11, beginning at 1:15 p.m. Following that service, an open house will be held from 1:30-2:30.

Mississippian Paul B. Johnson has accepted the call to Flat River Association in North Carolina as director of missions, effective Aug. 1. He previously served as director of Public Relations and Public Information at Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C. Johnson, a native of Bassfield, is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Prior to serving for 21 years as a missionary to the Philippines, he served as pastor of Old Silver Creek Church, Lawrence Association.

Johnson

Martha Ann Powell of Liberty was elected president at the recent meeting of the New Orleans Seminary's Foundation Board. The Foundation Board consists of nearly 100 pastors and lay people who are instrumental in providing financial support for New Orleans Seminary.



Powell

Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, was recently awarded the doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist School of Biblical Studies during commencement exercises in New Orleans. He also holds degrees from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.



Holloway

Addie Mae Holloway of Valley Park Church, Valley Park, completed 45 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School on Aug. 4. Dennis Salley is pastor.

Athens Church, Aberdeen, recently presented a certificate to **Julian Thompson** on his 10th

Roger Dorsett, DOM, dies on Aug. 4 at 61

Roger S. Dorsett, director of missions for Tishomingo Association, died of cancer Aug. 4 at his home in Tishomingo County. He was 61.

Funeral service was held Aug. 7 at Tishomingo Church.

A native of Pontotoc County, Dorsett was a graduate of Mississippi College, Florida State University, and the University of Miami (Fla.), and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Prior to his service with Tishomingo Association, he served as director of missions for Jackson and Monroe Associations, and was a director for the Florida Baptist Children's Home system for 10 years.

He also served as pastor of Parkview Church, Leland, as well as churches in Alabama, North Dakota, and South Carolina. In 1982 he was awarded the Mississippi Minister of the Year award.

Dorsett is survived by his wife Mildred; parents Herman and Evey Dorsett of Pontotoc; sons Michael of Columbus and Christopher of Belmont; daughter Dedra Becker of Houston, Texas; brother Donnie of Sherman; and four grandchildren.

anniversary as pastor. He and his wife Edna, music director, also received a silver serving tray.

Charles Moore was licensed to preach on March 31 at Center Terrace Church, Canton. Moore received his education at Holmes Community College and Mississippi College. He plans to pursue his studies at New Orleans Seminary.

VBS Results

Euclatubba, Saltillo: July 29-Aug. 2; record attendance of 115; John Hearn, pastor.

David Earl Satterwhite dies at 60

David Earl Satterwhite, retired minister and former director of missions of Leake Association, died of renal failure July 29 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He was 60.

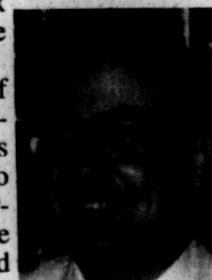
Funeral service was held July 31 at Wilcox Funeral Home in Carthage.

A native of Amory, Satterwhite was reared in Tupelo and was a veteran of both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army in the Korean War.

He attended Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth and Luther Rice Seminary in Florida. He was a member of Gideons International as well as the Carthage Rotary Club.

Prior to retirement, he pastored churches in Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi.

He is survived by his wife Mavis; daughter Dawn Sanders of Carthage; brother James of Den-nellon, Fla.; and sister Bessie Kaiser of Wichita, Kan.



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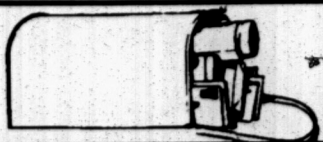
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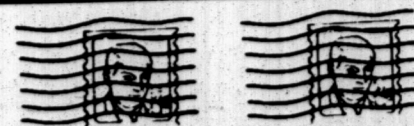


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Letters to the editor



Thanks for support

Editor:

I was reading the Jan. 11 **Baptist Record** when I read the article on the record amount given by Mississippi Baptists to the Cooperative Program, which means to the Foreign Mission Board. I praise God for our Mississippi Baptist friends. Please express to our Mississippi Baptists that every penny is appreciated by our foreign missionaries. Because of the giving by Mississippi Baptists, we as foreign missionaries can minister all across the world in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When I read **The Baptist Record**, I look for familiar names and churches. I was pastor of Mt. Olive Church, Okolona, for three years, and I have family in southern Mississippi. Therefore, Mississippi is important to our family. We are missionaries serving in Simferopol, Ukraine.

You may wonder why we are just now reading the January edition. It takes three months for it to arrive to this country and several months or so to reach us in Simferopol, but we get it. We praise God for you. May God continue to bless us through our Mississippi friends. May God bless our Mississippi Baptists and their work for him.

Tony Hines
Simferopol, Ukraine

Thankful for stance

Editor:

Praise God I am Southern Baptist and support the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to boycott Disney. It is about time we came out of our comfort zones and took a stand with what we see happening with our children today and what they are exposed to.

These Disney movies have very adult situations in them. I suggest you sit down and watch what unfolds. In these animation movies for some reason the women keep on bubbling out of their clothes. Funny, I never remember Snow White having that trouble.

We think Disney today seems the most pro-family empire in the world, and are we helping to build it? But what it pretends to appear as and what it actually is, are two very different things.

No, we should not hide this from our children. We should point out the wrong, what they cover up, and expose them for what they stand for. But, you say the rest of the world will laugh at us. Go ahead; even Christ was mocked (Matt. 27:31).

No, we may not be able to spend every day and night in church, but think what a better world we would live in if we did.

And yes, in the Bible it speaks of Christ going into the temple and he overthrew the tables of the money changers (Matt. 21:12).

You said, "That those who take our Christianity seriously find ourselves seated uncomfortably."

Maybe you should ask why you feel uncomfortable.

"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11).

Betty Williams
Oxford

Praying for guidance

Editor:

I am saddened and somewhat shocked by the response from some Christians concerning the Disney boycott. As a mother of two small children I know firsthand how difficult it is, and is going to be, to stand up for what I believe is right. I do not know how to explain to a 3-year-old and a 5-year-old the relationship between Disney, gay rights, and total immorality. They have patiently waited for months to see "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." They are still waiting, simply because I refuse to give my money to an organization that so blatantly attacks Christianity. I will not fund the annual "Gay and Lesbian Day" at Walt Disney World, a day in which Disney is actually allowing the homosexual organizers to portray Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck as homosexual lovers and Minnie Mouse and Daisy Duck as lesbians!

No one forced Christianity, morals, or family values on me. I have always been allowed the freedom to choose for myself what I thought was morally right after reviewing all the information given to me. I have been strongly convicted after reading and hearing all of this information about Disney and its agenda. Certainly there are those who have not felt convicted and may choose not to participate in this boycott, but please, instead of criticizing those of us who are struggling to try to do what we honestly feel that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do, just pray that we will not fail.

Stephanie Woodfield
Jackson

Blessings removed

Editor:

Speaking of same-sex marriages, I'd like to speak to the Mr.-and-Mr. or the Ms.-and-Ms. I understand that you are a very unusual couple — that you have never had an abortion in your immediate family, and that you have never had to go to a hospital because of a miscarriage. This, of course, is very unusual but it at least keeps down medical costs to your family budget.

You will never have to worry about the cost of sending a bunch of kids to school. You will not have to waste time taking that boy fishing or that daughter to her school prom. You also escape having to hear that little one with fever crying in the middle of the night for "Mummy."

Just suppose that God had made Adam and Adam instead of Adam and Eve. There would not have been any Bible. That would have

been the beginning and the end.

How do these people think they got here in the first place? This godless bunch is not only denying the likely birth of those little ones, but missing the opportunity to take them to church on the Sabbath; seeing them follow Mom and Dad in baptism, and hear the good pastor preach that sermon where Christ proclaims, "Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come unto me, for such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14).

Tom Walden
Jackson

What seems right...

Editor:

I am writing this in response to the July 11 Letter to the Editor by David Frazier. My husband and I have two small children who love Mickey Mouse, but if we as par-

ents allow anything to replace godly values in our home, then we have failed in our service to God and to our children.

Truly, I am constantly reminded through Mr. Frazier and others like him: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). Also, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Penny Watkins
Tylertown

Support HMB's Lewis

Editor:

I have received a personal letter from Moishe Rosen of Jews for Jesus requesting that I write a thank you note to Larry Lewis,

president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202, for the resolution that was passed by the Southern Baptist Convention on behalf of Jewish evangelism. It's a strong statement, citing Scriptures such as Luke 24:47, Romans 11:28b, and Romans 1:16, and ending with the resolution to direct their energies and resources toward the proclamation of the gospel to the Jewish people.

Moishe is concerned because the rabbis are so furious and are putting pressure on all kinds of Christian dignitaries with letter writing campaigns which can be devastating.

I hope everyone who reads this letter will write a letter of appreciation to Larry Lewis.

Carolyn E. Jones
Greenwood

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CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH, Tallahatchie County, is seeking a full-time pastor. Church is located 10 miles from Charleston, MS, on Tallaha Road with a parsonage. Send resume to Corinth Baptist Church, Route 1 Box 89, Tillatoba, MS 38961; Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

PART-TIME MINISTER of Music/Youth. First Baptist Church of Mount Olive is seeking a part-time minister of music and youth. Interested persons can contact Dwight Carr (601/797-3881 or 797-3890) or Rev. Donald O'Quin (797-3973 or 797-4628).

Uniform Valuing God's Word



By Jim Phillips
Psalm 119

Whenever we enter the home of a friend, it might be observed that the most valuable objects are quickly seen. On the coffee table, we might spot the latest edition of some periodical. We might discover a copy of his favorite novel. There might possibly be found a family album or even a copy of the Word of God. If they have preschoolers in the home, we may have to look a little higher.

The higher the value a person places on the Bible, the higher the impact God's Word should be upon their convictions. Some people treat a copy of the Word of God as having some mystic, magical quality. They're careful where they lay it and they may even keep a copy beside the bed. Trouble is, though, they know very little about its content and seldom are they known to actually meditate upon its truths.

Psalm 119 is a valuable treatise on rightly understanding the place for God's Word in the life of his children. The psalmist declared that to obey God's Word meant freedom (v. 45), to disobey resulted in enslavement. He believed that those who live life within the parameters established in the revealed law of God would receive blessings from the Lord (v. 1). To ignore God's truths would bring disaster. We need to understand that law was more than only the 10 Commandments, rather it was inclusive of instruction, guidance and beneficial revelation.

It is evident that he was writing from the standpoint of experience. He talked about "my ways" and "my heart" as having first-hand experience of receiving God's unmistakable blessings (vv. 5-8). It should be noted that this blessedness was equated with happiness and confidence that God's hand was upon his life. He was not without direction and insight, rather the Lord of all the heavens was personally impacting his whole being.

All of us generally behave and respond to life based on how our mind has been trained in handling life's challenges and opportunities. Our value system impacts our behavior. The psalmist believed that faithfully placing the Word of God properly in to that value system would thus control his behavior (vv. 9-11). All of us who have ever attended or been involved with Vacation Bible School, are familiar with verse 11. We were taught that God's Word would in fact guard us against breaking principles God set forth in caring for his children. It would also be possible to see God's Word as an actual guiding light or lamp by which to see our way through life's dark dangers. It would be the psalmist's conviction that if a child of God loses his or her way, it could very possibly be traced back to the time they stepped away from God's clearly lit path (v. 105).

Whenever you find yourself at a loss for understanding what life hands you, where do you turn for counsel? Are you tempted to call a psychic hotline or consult your horoscope? Do you call a favored friend and get their valued opinion? Do you chalk it up to fate that says whatever happens just happens and there's no meaning to the turn of events? Or do you consult the Word of God for meaning and understanding?

That's not to say that God might use a friend's spiritual maturity to help counsel and guide your way. I've done that. But be certain that the person whose counsel you value also has as his own source of strength the valued counsel of the Word of God.

The psalmist announces that God's insight and counsel are nothing short of wonderful (vv. 129-30). A truly wise person will take great strides in learning and then obeying his directives.

Only as we obey what we first know to be true can his Word then unfold to the next insightful, factual, divinely delivered Word. Rethink how valuable God's Word is to your life as a Christian. Do you open up its revealing truths other than just on Sunday mornings? If Jesus himself arrived to check out your Bible, would he find its cover dusty or well worn?

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Bible Book Interlude, 7th trumpet



By Ronald Bishop
Revelation 10, 11

The sweet and bitter scroll (Rev. 10). A bit of an interlude occurs between the blowing of the sixth and seventh trumpets. John probably used this interlude for literary effect. It seems that the first six trumpets were not successful in getting the persecutors to repent. John knows that there is only one more trumpet.

As in an intense drama, the finale is postponed a bit to give the audience a chance to take in all that has happened and prepare for the climax. The interlude reveals another "mighty" angel coming down from heaven. His might is revealed in the numerous images used to describe him. This angel had a little scroll open in his hand, and he had one foot on the earth and one on the sea.

Scrolls usually imply an important message in apocalyptic literature. The placement of the angel's feet suggests that the message is for all those "who dwell on the earth." God's message has universal application for those who defy him.

The loudness of the angel's voice shows that he has authority. When the angel spoke, seven thunders sounded out messages, which John prepared to record. The angel forbade him, for these words were yet secret, since humans do not know all that God has in his plan. The mighty angel then announced that there would be no more delay.

When the seventh trumpet would be blown, "the mystery of God" would be revealed.

John then heard a voice from heaven again, instructing him to take the scroll from the angel. As John took the scroll, the angel told him to eat it, reminding the reader of Ezekiel eating the scroll in Ezekiel 3. The point seems to be that John was glad to receive the word from God, but God's Word is not always pleasant.

The prophets were honored to be messengers of God, but they sometimes had to deliver announcements that grieved them. The same is true for John. He was God's messenger, but he was delivering messages that surely pricked his human sympathy.

God's faithful witnesses (Rev. 11). For the Hebrews the act of measuring indicated safety and security. God knew the whereabouts of his people and would protect them. Hence, the measuring of the temple. The outer court, the court of the Gentiles, would be left alone, for it would be overrun by the Gentiles (Romans) for a long but definite period of time. During that time, God would still have witnesses who would testify, even under duress.

Many identify the witnesses as Moses and Elijah. Some suggest other names. John's point probably was that if anyone will be a true witness for God during hard times, his or her lot will be better than those who deny God.

The reader will note that these two witnesses are persecuted and even killed. But then what happens to them? Though they are shamefully treated and abused, God restores their lives and they go into the presence of God.

What message did Christians under persecution need to hear? If you are persecuted, keep the faith. Do not worship Caesar. Worship God alone. So what if you are killed for your faith? God will raise you up, and your fate will be much better than those who deny their faith to go on living on the earth.

Finally, the seventh trumpet blows, inviting the heavenly choir to announce, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ...." God has overcome the evil in the world and his followers have overcome if they have remained faithful to him.

What is John's message in Revelation 10 and 11? Is it a road map to terrible events that are to come in the future? Is it a description of a tribulation that you and I should dread? Some think so.

Others, however, suggest that these chapters describe in fantastic imagery and metaphor the ongoing struggle between good and evil that exists in every age. For John and his first readers, it existed during the last years of the first century A.D. His primary message was that God would defeat the evil aspects of the Roman Empire, even if it seemed that God had forgotten his people.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work Better relationships



By Cynthia Douglas
Proverbs 10-29

"Mom, no one will be my friend at school," cried the child. Later, the same evening, the parents said, "We wish we had close friends, too."

God, in his wonderful, infinite knowledge, knew every generation needs a word on how to build better relationships. We were created with a need for fellowship with God and for fellowship with others. Developing strong friendships is a deep need among people today. Let us look at four guidelines God gave in Proverbs: 1) value your friends; 2) avoid gossiping and quarreling; 3) act with integrity; and 4) resolve conflicts wisely.

Value your friends (Prov. 10:12; 17:17; 18:24). Difficulties will come in our relationships but Proverbs 10:12 says to cover all wrongs with love. In 17:17 we are told real friends love each other regardless of the crisis. Friendship is a wonderful gift among persons. Proverbs 18:24 describes the value of a close friend as one who will be closer in relationship than a brother.

To value something implies holding it in high esteem, realizing its worth, and having a sense of protection for it. To value your friends is to be accepting, to overlook and forgive differences, and to be reaffirming of their worth.

Ask the person who lives alone, does not drive, and depends on friends for transportation: What value do you place on friends?

Ask the child who is always last to be chosen as a partner in school activities: What value do you place on friends?

Ask the lonely parent living in a new place: What value do you place on friends?

Avoid gossiping and quarreling (Prov. 16:28; 26:21). Gossip will separate close friends (16:28). Gossip is defined as an idle tattler, or repeating groundless rumor. Immeasurable pain comes to a friendship when words said in personal confidence are told by the friend to others. One way for believers to stop gossip is to refuse to listen and certainly never to repeat it.

A quarrelsome person stirs up trouble (26:21). Verse 20 says: "Without gossip a quarrel dies down." The words of the mouth reveal the heart and character of the person. A quarrelsome person brings heartache to the home and to the church. The spoken word carries great weight and should be used to edify the believer. Christians must be careful in their conversations so as not to listen to gossip or to become a part of the problem by repeating it.

Act with integrity (Prov. 3:28; 25:9; 27:10a). Five actions of integrity are given: share what you have; do not plan harm; do not falsely accuse someone; do not betray a confidence; and do not forsake your friend. Proverbs 3:28-30 says we have responsibilities toward our neighbors. Be honest and do not take advantage of their friendship. Be peaceable toward those living near you. When the neighbor has done you no harm, do not be accusing toward him.

God gave specific instructions to help believers build better relationships. When we fail to obey his teachings, our relationships suffer.

Wise people realize words and actions reflect their relationship to God. Do you act with integrity towards family, friends, and neighbors?

Resolve conflicts wisely (Prov. 14:9; 19:11; 29:11). Conflicts come to all relationships, but what determines how we react? Proverbs 14:9 says, "Fools mock at making amends for sin." One way to resolve conflict is for the upright to show goodwill and forgiveness.

God said another way to resolve conflict is to "overlook the offense" (19:11). This verse teaches a wise man is patient and kind.

The third way to resolve conflict is to control our temper. "A fool gives full vent to his anger" (29:11) but a godly person keeps his reactions under control.

Strengthening relationships with friends includes our realization of their great value, being able to handle conflict in a godly way, and always acting with integrity.

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

capsules

STEWARDSHIP LEADERS TO JOIN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: NASHVILLE (BP) — James L. Powell and James L. Austin, executive vice president and vice president for Cooperative Program (CP) promotion, respectively, of the Stewardship Commission, have accepted positions with the SBC Executive Committee (EC), effective no later than June 19, 1997, when the Stewardship Commission will be dissolved. The commission's dissolution will result from the SBC restructuring, "Covenant for a New Century," adopted by messengers to the June 11-13 annual meeting in New Orleans. Powell, employed by the Stewardship Commission 24 years, will serve as director of CP relations in the division of CP Advancement led by the Executive Committee's executive vice president, Ernest E. Mosley. "I'm excited about joining the EC staff in its commitment to advancing the impact of the CP on Southern Baptists' growing ministry in the United States and throughout the world," Powell stated. "The call of Christ to reach our lost world, matched with developing technologies in communicating our messages, gives us great challenge and great opportunity in CP advancement." Austin, a 16-year Stewardship Commission employee, will serve as director of CP promotions.

SBC AGENCIES INTENSIFY EFFORT TO CONFRONT HUNGER: NASHVILLE (BP) — In an acknowledgment of the unceasing tragedy of world hunger, three entities of the Southern Baptist Convention have forged a cooperative new working relationship to equip Southern Baptists to more effectively respond to the needs of the hungry. Alarmed by the ongoing decline in giving to world hunger needs by Southern Baptists, the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Christian Life Commission have reaffirmed their responsibility to confront the problem of hunger in the United States and around the world. Southern Baptist world hunger offering receipts peaked in 1985 and have been falling since. Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president at the Foreign Mission Board, noted the general public's interest in hunger seems to rise and fall depending on television news reports featuring stories of famine and starvation in faraway lands.

GALLUP SAYS TEENS GROW UP SCARED: PRINCETON, N.J. (ABP) — America's young people, surrounded by such problems as violence and drugs, are growing up scared, according to researcher George Gallup. Using research gathered from three scientifically controlled samplings of teens, Gallup provides what he calls "a reality check" to separate facts from impressions and determine how teens really experience the world. Those "realities" are published in the book *Growing Up Scared in America and What the Experts Say Parents Can Do About It*. Gallup organized his findings around four "at-risk" behaviors which make for a frightening world: violence, sex, health issues, and drug and alcohol addiction. Additionally, at the end of each chapter, he includes advice gleaned from interviews with leading authorities about how to deal with each of the risk behaviors. "As every expert we consulted insists, nothing is as essential in fighting the risks faced by our youth than a solid, early grounding in right and wrong, often rooted in religious faith. In combating drug abuse, crime, suicide, irresponsible sex, poor health, nothing works like good character," Gallup concludes.

WAYLAND UNIVERSITY AT GLORIETA DEDICATED: GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Wayland Baptist University at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center officially opened its doors July 29 with a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. Approximately 70 people attended the event just inside the entrance of the conference center at a log building housing the offices of the new learning center. One day earlier, nearby Glorieta Church became the first New Mexico church to provide scholarships by pledging to grant two students \$500 per year. Glorieta director Larry Haslam credited Ray Ezelle, director of Glorieta's sales and marketing, with starting the process that led to the establishment of the only Baptist university operation in New Mexico. Wayland at Glorieta director Fred Teague called the endeavor "unusual" and "unprecedented."

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS EXTEND NORTH KOREA HUNGER RELIEF: RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptists have shipped almost two dozen containers of food and given hundreds of thousands of dollars to help stave off the starvation that threatens up to 5 million North Koreans. The response has been strong enough to allow the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) to release another \$350,000 to the North Korea relief project. To date, 23 containers of food — each carrying 450 boxes of rice, beans, noodles, and other nonperishables — have been shipped to North Korea by Baptist state conventions, said Bill Cashion, director of the FMB's human needs office. One other container is being prepared for shipment. "We think about the love Christ had for us, and it overflows into love for others," he added. "Our prayer is that North Koreans will recognize we are doing this for no other reason than to share the message that God loves them and cares for them."

Pair of Mississippians set to serve in Tahoe resort ministries for BSU

Gayden Fisher and Lara Hudson, both 19, have been appointed as semester missionaries by the Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU). They will serve August-December in resort ministries at Lake Tahoe, Calif. They will resume their education after their terms of service.

Fisher, daughter of Burke and Rita Fisher of Indianola, is a student at Mississippi Delta Community College. Hudson, daughter of Porter and Letitia Hudson of Sumrall, is a student at Hinds Community College. Hudson currently serves as a student summer missionary on an evangelism team in the

Pacific Northwest.

The two women's total expenses will be paid by fellow students. The Mississippi BSU raises its finances entirely by donations from students involved in 34 BSU programs across the state.

This year's budget of \$111,396.33 supports Fisher and 79 summer missionaries serving 10-week terms.

Baptist Student Union is sponsored by the Department of Student Work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and is made possible by the Cooperative Program.

Mississippi student volunteers filling gaps in California missionary roster

Mississippi Baptist students stood in the gap this summer when the Home Mission Board (HMB) came up short for summer missionaries in California.

California had been allocated approximately 85 students to be

assigned by state Baptist Student Unions and the HMB, but had only been assigned about 53 as of the first of May, when there were no more students to be appointed.

At that point, state and local BSU personnel began to publicize

the need for additional students to serve.

"When all of the dust settled, we had processed an additional seven Mississippi BSU students to serve in California this summer," said Weaver McCracken, associate director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Department of Student Work.

McCracken added that this group, because of the lateness of appointment, were not in earlier publications of posters and prayer calendars along with the other 73 student missionaries.

The students, their schools, and hometowns are: Brian Parker, Hinds Community College, Morton; Tabetha Bowles, Northwest Community College, Oxford; Michael Herring, Mississippi State University (MSU), Vancleave; Jill Stockstill, MSU, Picayune; Cassidy Ganas, MSU, Lumberton; Heather Irby, Delta State University (DSU), Marks; Robyn Jones, DSU, Greenwood;

The students' work ranges from resort ministry to leading Vacation Bible Schools to day camps.

"While this is not the customary way we process students," said McCracken, "it was good to see the last minute response of students to what was a critical situation."



Student Summer missionaries serving in Mississippi under the direction of the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department, pictured from left, are Leslie Dickinson, student at Belhaven College, serving in Pike Association; Alisha Olive, student at Blue Mountain College, serving in Lee Association; Roy King, student at William Carey College's Gulf Coast campus, serving at East Howard Mission Center in Gulf Coast Association; Melissa Casteel, student at Blue Mountain College, serving in Lee Association; Kim South, student at William Carey College, serving in Tishomingo Association; Misha Brown, student at Pearl River Community College, serving at Juniper Grove Church, Pearl River Association; and Fordrena Griffith, student at William Carey College's Gulf Coast campus, serving at East Howard Center.

Bibliocipher

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This week's clue: R equals F.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Fifteen: Thirty.

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